

Appl. No. 09/890,677
Atty. Docket No. 7419
Amdt. dated: 02/03/04
Amendment & Reply to the Office Action dated 10/03/03

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

13. (currently amended) A laundry detergent composition comprising:

- a) one or more low density expandable particles selected from the group consisting of microspheres, cavity-forming components, pore-forming components, and mixtures thereof; and
- b) one or more non-enzymic comprising laundry adjunct ingredients in the form of a particulate solid;

wherein said expandable microsphere when expanded has a density of less than 0.4 g/mL; and
wherein said low density particles comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylonitrile, polymethacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

14. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein said microspheres comprise an expandable materials selected from the group consisting of liquid hydrocarbons, gases, and mixtures thereof.

15. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein said low density particles comprise a thermoplastic material.

16. (canceled) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein said low density particles comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylonitrile, polymethacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

17. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein said microspheres comprise a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of siliceous materials, proteins, ceramic materials, and mixtures thereof.

18. (currently amended) A composition according to Claim 12 13 wherein said microsphere is capable of expanding to provide a particle having a density of less than 0.2 g/L.

19. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 18 wherein said microsphere is capable of expanding to provide a particle having a density of less than 0.1 g/L.

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20. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein said adjunct ingredients are selected from the group consisting of surfactants, builders, bleaches, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, chelants, optical brighteners, soil release polymers, dye transfer agents, dispersants, suds suppressors, dyes, perfumes, colorants, filler salts, hydrotropes, photactivators, fluorocscers, fabric conditioners, hydrolysable surfactants, preservatives, anti-oxidants, anti-shrinkage agents, anti-wrinkle agents, germicides, fungicides, color speckles, carriers, processing aids, pH control agents, and mixtures thereof.

21. (currently amended) A liquid laundry detergent composition comprising:

- a) one or more particles which are capable of providing a low density component, said particles selected from the group consisting of microspheres which are capable of expanding, cavity-forming components capable of providing low density cavities unfillable by other laundry ingredients, pore-forming components capable of providing cavities unfillable by other laundry ingredients, and mixtures thereof; and
- b) one or more laundry adjunct ingredients in the form of a particulate solid;

wherein said expandable microsphere when expanded has a density of less than 0.4 g/mL; and
wherein said low density particles comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylonitrile, polymethacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

22. (currently amended) A composition according to Claim 21 wherein said particles in (a) are selected from microspheres which provide a low density component by means of an expanding hydrocarbon liquid or an expanding gas.

23. (currently amended) A method for stabilizing a liquid laundry detergent composition from separating into a bilayer, said method comprising the step of combining one or more particles which are capable of providing a low density component, said particles selected from the group consisting of microspheres which are capable of expanding, cavity-forming components capable of providing low density cavities unfillable by other laundry ingredients, pore-forming components capable of providing cavities unfillable by other laundry ingredients, and mixtures thereof; with one or more laundry adjunct ingredients in the form of a particulate solid; thereby forming a detergent composition wherein said expandable microsphere when expanded has a density of less than 0.4 g/mL; and wherein said low density particles comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylonitrile, polymethacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.